



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

2009 MAY -5 P 3:07

MAY 04 2009

The Honorable Bobby Hopewell
Mayor of Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4796

Dear Mayor Hopewell:

Thank you for your letter of April 20, 2009, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond to your letter directly.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

Christa Fornarotto
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Aviation and International Affairs



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241 West South Street
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April 20, 2009

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

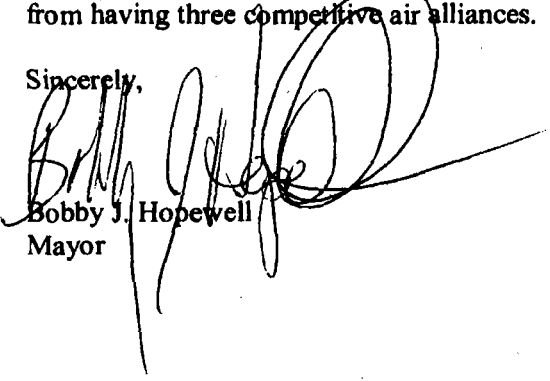
Docket DOT - OST - 2008-0252

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please support and approve the application for antitrust immunity filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian. Approval of this application by the U.S. Department of Transportation would enable these five oneworld alliance airlines that operate transatlantic service to work closely together to deliver highly competitive flight schedules, fares and service as well as compete on equal footing with Star and SkyTeam alliances, which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity for transatlantic flights.

In addition, please support and approve the request by American, British Airways and Iberia to establish a joint business agreement for operations between North American and Europe, which would create a more efficient and comprehensive transatlantic network for the carriers' customers. This action will have a positive impact on air travel by offering customers more service, scheduling and pricing options and will help to ensure that customers continue to benefit from having three competitive air alliances.

Sincerely,



Bobby J. Hopewell
Mayor